

id: 194925
date: 2009-03-03 13:10:00
refid: 09KINSHASA195
origin: Embassy Kinshasa
classification: SECRET
destination: 09STATE18863
header:
VZCZCXYZ0007
OO RUEHWEB

DE RUEHKE #0195 0621310
ZNY SSSSS ZZH
O 031310Z MAR 09
FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9264
INFO RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN IMMEDIATE 0057
RUEHBS/AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE 2936
RUEHJB/AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA IMMEDIATE 0060
RUEHKM/AMEMBASSY KAMPALA IMMEDIATE 4692
RUEHKH/AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE 0024
RUEHLGB/AMEMBASSY KIGALI IMMEDIATE 4846
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE 0196
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE 0014
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE 1239
RUEHSA/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE 4164
RUEHTC/AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE 0092
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE 0036
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0726
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
RUEHDS/USMISSION USAU ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE 0004

----- header ends -----

S E C R E T KINSHASA 000195

SIPDIS

FOR IO/PSC (HEATHER VON BEHREN) AND AF/C (CHRISTOPHER
LAMORA)

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/26/2019
TAGS: PREL, PHUM, KPKO, UNSC, IN, CG
SUBJECT: URGENT DEMARCHE: THREATENED INDIAN PEACEKEEPER
WITHDRAWAL FROM THE DRC

REF: STATE 18863

1. (SBU) In response reftel, Ambassador met March 3 with Prime Minister Adolphe Muzito. Meeting with President Joseph Kabila, as instructed reftel, was not possible as Kabila is away from Kinshasa and is not expected to return until next week.
2. (S) Prior to meeting with Muzito, Ambassador spoke with SRSG Alan Doss who briefed on the meeting Sunday between Kabila and UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon. Doss asked Ambassador to emphasize that while progress has been made in persuading the Indians to reconsider their decision to withdraw from MONUC, the DRC still needed to make public statements and reach out to India to reinforce the DRC's support for India's continued participation in MONUC. Doss noted that Kabila had indicated to Ban Ki-Moon that Foreign Minister Alexis Thambwe will soon travel to New Delhi to deliver a letter to the Indian Government requesting that India's MONUC contingent remain in the DRC.
3. (SBU) Muzito, who had not been informed of the purpose of the meeting because of security concerns, was surrounded by mostly economic advisors, including Jean-Claude Nachega, an IMF official of Congolese nationality who has been seconded to the Prime Minister's office to work on pressing economic issues. Ambassador was accompanied by the DCM. Ambassador began, noting that the U.S. Government was pleased that there appears to be progress in persuading India to reverse its decision to withdraw its forces from MONUC. He stated that the U.S. viewed India's presence in MONUC, with almost 25% of all troops, as very important for the success of MONUC's mission. He also noted that with 23 of 30 aircraft of MONUC's air wing, it would be difficult for MONUC to maintain logistical support to the Congolese army (FARDC) in its operations against the FDLR and the LRA.
4. (SBU) Muzito responded that for some time there had been dissatisfaction with Indian troops because of their inability or unwillingness to protect the local population from the CNDP. He said perhaps the GDRC's analysis had been flawed regarding the Indians' performance but that at no time did the GDRC want all the Indians to leave; instead they should simply redeploy back to India according a pre-established timetable. He acknowledged that the GDRC has asked the SYG to not include Indians in MONUC's augmentation of 3,000 new troops but that this did not mean India was to reduce its current force level.

5. (C) Comment: The Prime Minister does not usually deal with foreign policy and was out of his depth. Perhaps not surprisingly, therefore, Muzito seemed surprised when the Ambassador said the Foreign Minister was to travel to New Delhi. Muzito will, however, inform Kabila of the Ambassador's demarche. We also believe that among the group of advisors attending the meeting was Kabila's representative on Muzito's staff; he will certainly inform the president. At the end of the meeting one of the advisors accompanied the Ambassador to the press gaggle just outside the PM's office and insisted on helping with the press conference, ostensibly to steer questions away from more sensitive issues (in this case the ambassador's discussion with the PM on the ongoing political crisis over the anticipated resignation of the National Assembly president, an issue that will be covered septel). When the Ambassador told the press that the meeting had focused on the economic situation, the advisor left. End comment.

GARVELINK